

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4617

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TAGS: PFOR, SW, VS, VN, US

SUBJECT: PALME STATEMENTS ON VIETNAM

REF: STOCKHOLM 2177

1. IN ADDITION TO MAY DAY STATEMENT ON VIETNAM BY PRIME MINISTER PALME (REFTEL), PRIME MINISTER HAS ALSO PUBLICLY DISCUSSED VIETNAM ON TWO OTHER OCCASIONS.

2. ON APRIL 30, PRIME MINISTER MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT IS PLEASED AND RELIEVED THAT THE CRUEL WAR IN VIETNAM IS FINALLY ENDED. A REGIME WITHOUT PUBLIC SUPPORT HAS VANISHED. A WAR THAT WAS SENSELESS AND UNJUST FROM THE BEGINNING HAS CEASED. AFTER DECADES OF STRUGGLE AND SUFFERINGS, A PEOPLE HAS WON ITS NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE. SWEDEN HAS SUPPORTED THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION. WE HAVE WORKED FOR ITS RIGHT TO DECIDE ITS OWN FUTURE, TO CHOOSE ITS OWN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM WITHOUT FOREIGN INTERVENTION. IT IS OUR SINCERE HOPE THAT THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE FINALLY WILL FIND PEACE AND CONCILIATION.

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NOW STRENGTH MUST BE MOBILIZED -- WITH SUPPORT FROM ALL

THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD -- FOR PEACEFUL REHABILITATION.
NATURALLY, SWEDEN IS READY TO PLAY ITS PART."

3. ON INTERVIEW CARRIED ON SWEDISH TELE-
VISION MAY 3, PALME REITERATED THIS THEME AND IN
ADDITION MADE SOME OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF
VIETNAM. NOTING THE ABSENCE OF WESTERN TYPE DEMOCRACIES
IN THE THIRD WORLD, PRIME MINISTER SPECULATED THAT
"OTHER FORCES" WOULD PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE, ESPECIALLY
THE SO-CALLED "THIRD FORCE", (WHICH HE DID NOT DEFINE)
AND WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "QUITE STRONG". THE PRIME
MINISTER ALSO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE NEW
SAIGON GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY WOULD BE "AS INDE-
PENDENT AS POSSIBLE." ASKED WHAT IMPACT THE END OF THE
WAR WILL HAVE ON SWEDEN, PALME SAID THAT (1) IT WILL
MEAN THE END OF THE PICTURES OF "SUFFERING AND DEATH
WHICH HAVE FOLLOWED US OVER THE YEARS, AND (2) "WE HAVE
GAINED A POLITICAL INSIGHT THAT SMALL NATIONS AND
POOR NATIONS MUST HAVE A RIGHT TO FORM THEIR OWN
FUTURE."
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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